

Message Text

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43

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6189

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 8031

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, GR

SUBJECT: FM GROMYKO RECEIVES GREEK AMBASSADOR AFTER TEN YEAR
SNUB

1. ATHENS PRESS REPORTED NOVEMBER 7 THAT FM GROMYKO RECEIVED GREEK AMBASSADOR ALEXANDER DIMITROPOULOS NOVEMBER 5 MARKING FIRST OCCASION IN ABOUT TEN YEARS GREEK AMBASSADOR IN MOSCOW HAS BEEN RECEIVED ABOVE THE UNDER SECRETARY LEVEL. PRESS ACCOUNTS NOTED THAT DIMITROPOULOS REQUESTED APPOINTMENT TO DISCUSS CYPRUS AND IN PARTICULAR LATEST UNGA CYPRUS RESOLUTION AND USSR'S CONTRIBUTION IN REACHING AGREEMENT THIS RESOLUTION.

2. GREEK MFA OFFICIALS HAVE CONFIDED TO US IN PAST GOG IRRITATION BECAUSE SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER HAS REFUSED FOR YEARS REQUESTS FOR APPOINTMENT WITH HIM, REFERRING DIMITROPOULOS (IN MOSCOW SINCE MID-1972) AND VARIOUS PREDECESSORS TO UNDER SECRETARY LEVEL. GROMYKO'S RECEIVING GREEK AMBASSADOR AT THIS TIME SEEMS SIGNIFICANT SHIFT. SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO GREECE HAS NOT EXPERIENCED SIMILAR DIFFICULTY HERE.

3. USSR MAY BE REFLECTING SATISFACTION WITH RECENT LEGALIZATION OF GREEK COMMUNIST PARTY AFTER TWENTY-SEVEN YEAR BAN AND GREEK RESPONSIVENESS TO SOVIET UNSC INITIATIVE FOR 18-NATION CONFERENCE ON CYPRUS. CARAMANLIS GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO SUSPEND PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION'S CANCELLATION OF \$89 MILLION PEAT PROJECT

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AGREEMENT CONTRACTED WITH USSR HAS ALSO HELPED PROBABLY TO WARM

GREEK/SOVIET RELATIONS.

KUBISCH

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Message Attributes

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